Social Discrimination of Social Groups

1472. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even now some social groups are subjected to the persistent social discrimination, crimes and atrocities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to penalise the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) and (b) Owing to various measures taken towards socio-economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there has been a decline in such offences which are attributed to factors like land disputes, land alienation, indebtedness, non-payment of minimum wages, besides caste prejudices and practice of untouchabilities etc.

(c) Two special central legislations *viz.* the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been enacted, which provide for penalties for offences relating to practice of untouchability and atrocities Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Steps to educate socially disadvantaged groups

1473. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the socially disdvantaged groups are berefit of education on a large scale;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to educate them?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) the Government is committed to proved education, primary education in particular to the socially disadvantaged groups. Both the Central and States/UT Governments are implementing a number of programmes for their educational upliftment, which include provision of assistance towards maintenance for day scholars and hostellers, reimburesement of compulsory non-refundable fees, thesis typing/printing charges, study tour charges, book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses and special provisions for such students with disabilities etc.

In addition to the general assistance provided by the Ministry of Human Resources Development and the State Governments, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are implementing a number of schemes, as indicated at Statement 3 for assisting students belonging to SC and ST respectively *{see* below).

As per Government policy, 15% and 7.5% of seats in educational institutions are kept reserved for SCs for STs respectively. SCs/STs Cells have been set up in educational institutions to safegard the interest of SCs/STs students. In Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas, SC/ ST students have been given fees exemption.

Statement

List of Schemes being Operated for the educational development of socially disadvantaged groups

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
2. Centraly Sponsored Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations;
3. Central Sector Scheme of Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Caste girls belonging to very low literacy level districts;
4. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, etc. students for higher studies abroad;
5. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes boys and girls;
6. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Book Banks for SC & ST students;
7. Centrally Sector Scheme of Up gradation of merits of SC & ST students;
8. Centrally Sponsored Coaching and Allied scheme for SC and ST students;
9. Assistance to NGOs for academic benefit of SC and ST students;
10. Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas; and
11. Educational complex for low literacy pockets for development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas.

Inadequate Academic Assistance to SC Students

1474. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: